

# The Rambler

Newsletter of the  
Rose Hill Civic Association

## President's Message

### RCHA Ends Summer Vacation with September 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Help for Seniors Featured

The Rose Hill Civic Association will resume monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 27, at 7 p.m. in the community room of the John Marshall Library. The agenda includes a presentation on a Fairfax County program that assists senior citizens to remain in their homes. Also, there will be a discussion about the proliferation of signs in the median on Rose Hill Drive between the elementary school and Franconia Road.

Patti Klein, executive director of Rebuilding Together, will present a program about a pilot project that helps low-income senior homeowners age in place and stay healthy in their homes. The program is FREE. It involves preventing falls through the installation of grab bars, double handrails and other conveniences. Rose Hill has a chance to become a pilot community for this program if enough seniors on fixed income are interested. Seniors are invited to find out more and see if they qualify by attending the meeting. Children of seniors and other interested relatives and/or neighbors are invited to attend.

Although roadside temporary signs are largely illegal in VDOT right of way or on utility poles, there is no program for removal on Rose Hill Drive. The Sheriff's Department Workforce removes signs on a regular basis, but Rose Hill

#### RHCA Officers

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Drive is not on the list. Franconia Road and Telegraph Road are policed. Hopefully, we can get the County and VDOT to add the portion of Rose Hill Drive containing the median to the list. If not, we will ask guidance concerning the liability of removal by volunteers. See the article below.

As always, refreshments will be served at the end of the business meeting and we will be finished with everything by 9 p.m. when the library closes.

#### Mosquito Control

The Asian tiger mosquito, a possible carrier of the Zika virus, is common to Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Health Department reminds us of the importance to prevent mosquitos around your home and protecting yourself from bites between now and the first hard frost. Control mosquitos in your yard by eliminating standing water or treat it with a larvicide. If you have mosquitos, treat your yard with an insecticide, making sure to treat bushy green plants, ivy, other ground covering plants and bamboo. All are hiding places for mosquitos. To protect yourself and your family from bites, use and EPA-registered insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535. Cover exposed skin by wearing loose fitting long sleeve shirts and pants. Keep your doors and windows closed and/or make sure screens are in good repair. Although Florida's Dade County (Miami and suburbs) is the only area in the United States currently to report Zika cases, vigilance is the suggested for us here in Rose Hill.

#### 2016 County Ballot Questions

In addition to votes for President and the Eighth Congressional District, there will be important Fairfax County issues on the 2016 ballot. Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Issues include a proposed meals tax,

three bond issues and two Commonwealth of Virginia Constitutional Amendments. The meals tax will add four percent to charges for prepared foods and beverages. The bond issues include \$120 million for transportation, \$107 million for parks and recreation and \$85 million for Human Services and Community Development. The \$107 total for parks includes \$94,700,000 for the Fairfax County Park Authority and \$12,300,000 for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The transportation bond will cover Fairfax County's share of construction and reconstruction under the Washington Area Transit Authority (Metro) Compact. There is a separate yearly contribution for Metro operation.

The meals tax will mean that a restaurant bill will rise to 10 percent, plus tip. Restaurant meals already are taxed at six percent by the state. A small part of those taxes go to the local government. All of the proposed meals tax will accrue to the County, which says it will apportion 70 percent of the total to the schools and 30 percent to County services, capital improvement and property tax relief. More than 52 percent (\$2,116,489,001) of the current County budget goes to the schools. The proposed meals tax matches the four cents per hundred dollars increase on Rose Hill homes (and the entire county) as part of the adopted 2017 Fairfax County budget.

Bonds are like mortgages in that they are paid off over a long period. Fairfax County enjoys an AAA bond rating, meaning that interest rates are low. The transportation bond includes funds for the purchase of new Metro cars as well as improvements to primary and secondary roads built and maintained by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The park bond will finance a long list of acquisitions and improvements at Fairfax County parks, including a picnic shelter at Lee District Park's Family Recreation Area and a new athletic field in the Mount Vernon-Lee area. The Human Services and Community Development bond proceeds will include the financing of community centers and shelters.

The Commonwealth of Virginia ballot questions involve proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution. The first would add the right to work to the constitution. The right to work law prohibits any agreement that requires membership in a union in order to work in Virginia. Currently, the law is included in the Code of Virginia, but not the constitution. The second amendment would provide an option that would allow local tax exempt status for the surviving spouse of any police, fire, search and rescue or emergency services personnel killed in the

line of duty. The exemption would be limited to the principal place of residence and real property of any spouse who has not remarried.

### **No Meeting in October**

The Rose Hill Civic Association will NOT meet in October due to the fact that neither the library nor elementary school is available on the fourth Tuesday of the month. However, the Rambler will be printed as usual and delivered the weekend of October 22-23. RHCA will resume meetings on November 22. As usual, there is no meeting or Rambler in December. If you have any questions during the hiatus, call any of the RHCA officers. The RHCA bylaws allow the suspension of meetings as long as the suspension does not exceed three months. The constitution and bylaws are included as part of myrosehill.com. The covenants also are there and residents are reminded that the covenants remain in effect. Property changes that are prohibited by County law and/or the covenants may result in fines or even more costly return to the original situation. Zoning violations are the main problem in Rose Hill. Please be sure you understand the law before making property or living accommodation changes. The zoning code is available online at farifaxcounty.gov.

### **Beauty Update**

By now, all of the RHCA members who have indicated they want a Rose Hill Beauty sign have received them. Several have opted out for various reasons and others have discarded the ones they received last year so we were unsure if they wanted one or not. If you fall into the latter category and want a sign, please give Linda or I a call. The signs are expensive, so we ask winners to recycle their signs. New stickers will be attached to update the year. They will be replaced if they are worn or damaged. The Rose Hill Beauty program also is time consuming and help is needed in the future if it is to continue. Please take the time to help by nominating properties on your block before May 15. Unfortunately, several suggestions were made too late to be included this year. We also need help in updating current signs or installing new ones. Please get in touch if you would be interested in doing a portion of the community next year.

### **Veterans Day Honors**

Once again, we will display signs during the Veteran's Day period with the names of Rose Hill residents who serve or

have served their country. If you know of a veteran whose name is not currently displayed, please give us a call. If you are unsure, call so we can check. We don't want to miss any veterans in our community. We owe them our Freedom, so the least we can do is say thanks on Veteran's Day. If you have any youngsters in your household, make sure you explain to them the importance of honoring our servicemen and women and all of our veterans. The signs will be placed in the yard of the Krause family just across the street from Rose Hill Elementary School. Veteran's Day is Friday, November 11, 2016.

### **Signs in Median**

The proliferation of advertising signs in the median from the school to Franconia Road has reached the point where the situation adversely affects crosswalks and turns into the apartments, Leewood Drive, the cul de sacs and the shopping center. It also detracts from the overall beauty of the community. Signs in the median are illegal, but that doesn't deter the scofflaws. There is a program for removal of the signs by the Sheriff's Community Labor Force. Unfortunately, Rose Hill Drive is not on the list of streets covered by this program. Franconia Road and Telegraph Road are included. RHCA will discuss this issue and vote on whether to ask the County to include this stretch of Rose Hill Drive in the removal program. If we can't get it included, we will ask for guidance concerning the liability for removal by volunteers. We currently remove any signs that are placed in the median in front of our monument entrance sign and would expand the effort all the way back to the school. Many people work hard to keep Rose Hill looking good and these signs detract from the total community. The library, school and apartments take special care of their grounds. The shopping center maintains its shrubbery along Rose Hill Drive, but should do a better job of picking up trash. Come to the meeting and lend your voice to our decision.

### **Gettysburg Trip**

The Franconia Museum will sponsor a day trip to Gettysburg on Saturday, October 15. The bus leaves the Franconia Government Center at 8:15 a.m. sharp. Stops include the new Seminary Ridge Museum that depicts Day One at Gettysburg, a late afternoon July 3 battle at the foot of Big Round Top, skirmishes at nearby Fairfield or July 3 and 4 and a new museum at Monterey Pass that

presents the midnight battle in a downpour on July 5. The cost is \$100, which covers transportation, entrance fees, a buffet lunch and a McDonald's snack card for stop on the way home. This is the seventeenth Both Sides Tour sponsored by the Museum. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or Carl Sell at 703-971-4716 for information or to reserve a seat.

-Carl Sell

### **REMINDER!**

As part of its ongoing effort to keep Rose Hill a clean, safe and pleasant place in which to live, we remind all residents of the basic rules that apply in our community. **Please clean up after your pets** and don't allow them to wander into a neighbor's yard. **Don't pile old furniture, appliances and household goods at the curb** and expect the trash service to remove the debris. Call for a special pickup as the trash companies only take what is in the containers. **Please keep your grass and weeds cut** and trimmed. There are rules against overcrowding. If you make an alteration, get a permit. Otherwise, your fire insurance may not be valid. **Make sure your auto tags and inspection stickers are current.** Don't park abandoned or inoperable cars on either the street or your property. There are LAWS against all of the above. **Violators can be fined.** If the County sends someone to pick up your trash or cut your lawn, the cost will be added to your tax bill. Most of all, please help keep Rose Hill looking fresh and clean. That helps everyone's property values. If you see trash or other violations, call Zoning Enforcement at 703-324-1300. Vehicle and police non-emergency calls should be directed to 703-691-2131. Call 911 in an emergency!

### **Around Rose Hill**

#### **John Marshall Library**

6209 Rose Hill Dr, 703.971.0010. Call ahead to register for events.

Hours: M, T – 10am – 9pm; W, F – 10am – 6pm; Th. – 1pm – 9pm; Sat 10am – 5pm

- \* **Ongoing Event.** English Conversation. Each Thursday at 2:00pm. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults.
- \* **Ongoing Event.** Friday Morning Movie Time. 1030am. Age 2-5.
- \* **Ongoing Event.** e-Book Workshop. Saturdays at 1pm.

- \* **Ongoing Events.** Fun for 2s and 3s; Tots and Tales; A to Zoo Storytime. Mon and Wed at 1030am.
- \* **Ongoing Events.** Preschool Movie Morning. Fri at 1030am.
- \* **Chair Yoga.** Oct 11, 18, 25 at 130pm.
- \* **Child and Me Yoga.** Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 at 1030am.

### **Thomas Edison High School**

5801 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310  
Office – 703.924.8000; Fax – 703.924.8097

- \***Back to School Night.** Sep 22 at 5pm.
- \***Student Holiday.** October 7.
- \***Holiday.** October 10.

### **Mark Twain Middle School**

4700 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310  
Office – 703.313.3700; Fax – 703.313.3797

- \***Student Holiday.** October 7.
- \***Holiday.** October 10.

### **Rose Hill Elementary School**

6301 Rose Hill Dr. Alexandria, VA 22310  
Office – 703.313.4200; Fax – 703.313.4297

- \***Parent SIIP Night.** Sep 22 at 630pm.
- \***Student Holiday.** October 7.
- \***Holiday.** October 10.

### **Advertising in *The Rambler***

Listing in the business directory is free to Rose Hill residents who are members and own their business, but placing an actual advertisement is open to all with rates per month as follows:

- \* Business card: 3 ½" x 2", \$10
- \* Quarter page: 3 ½" x 4 ¾", \$25
- \* Half page: 7 ½" x 4 ¾", \$50
- \* Full page: 7 ½" x 9 ¾", \$100

Ads may be bought for either one month only, month-to-month, or as many months in advance as

**Only those residents who are members of the Rose Hill Civic Association or provide services in kind will qualify for a FREE listing in the business directory. Membership dues are the source of funds for the printing of The Rambler.**

### **Heating and Air Conditioning**

**Dove Heating and Air Conditioning.** We service and install heat pumps, air conditioners, furnaces, hot water heaters, and humidifiers. David and Linda Nichols, 703.971.8897. The Nichols have been in business for 30 years and have lived in Rose Hill for 41 years.

### **Real Estate**

**Re/Max 100.** Steve Dougherty, 703.746.8720. [www.stevedougherty.com](http://www.stevedougherty.com). Steve and his family have lived in Rose Hill and been active in civic affairs for 30 years. He has been a Realtor of 20 years and specializes in service to his neighbors in the community.

### **Lawn Services**

**Fortney Lawn & Garden.** David and Jimmy Fortney, 703.960.8869. Although they live in Virginia Hills, the Fortneys work closely with RHCA to maintain the median landscaping on Rose Hill Drive.

### **House Cleaning**

**Everclean Maid Service.** 703.971.7160. Owned and operated by Nour Barakat and Mike Zalotoris. Our residential cleaning business is celebrating 30 years of service in Alexandria and for the last 26 years from our home in Rose Hill. We offer reliable and affordable home and office cleaning for all local residents, and we are happy to offer a 25% discount to our neighbors to celebrate our anniversary. Call for a free estimate and to schedule your cleaning. Thank you Rose Hill for being our happy home! (See our ad in this newsletter.)

### **Photography**

**Tisara Photography.** Nina Tisara, 703.838.8098. Tisara Photography is a family business with a studio in Old Town Alexandria since 1990. They specialize in portraits and special events. Nina lives on Hayfield Place.

### Need Help?

Pet services (dog walking, vet appointments); errands (pharmacy, dry cleaning, drop off/pick-up product repair); personal shopping (grocery, post office, exchange and item returns); vehicle services (vehicle license and emission renewal, vehicle service repair, vehicle inspection); home services (house sitting, light yard work, wait at home for service personnel); travel and transportation (to and from); medical concierge services (doctor appointments, pre-/post-operation assistance). Contact David Sell at 703.971.4716, or email [dksell@hotmail.com](mailto:dksell@hotmail.com).



Steve Dougherty  
Your Rose Hill Realtor  
703.746.8720

RE/MAX 100



[www.stevedougher.com](http://www.stevedougher.com)

### Handyman

Your honey-do list getting out of hand? Call my honey! Offering free quotes and estimates. Please call Rick at 703.943.7102.

### Ocean City, MD Beach Rental

Two bedrooms, two bath condo available for RHCA members only at a discount price. Noon Sunday to noon Sunday to beat the traffic. Quiet complex in North Ocean City residential neighborhood. Four blocks from Atlantic Ocean. Steps to private pool. Cable TV. Fully equipped condo. You clean when you leave in exchange for discount price. Limited weeks available in August. Call Carl Sell at 703-971-4716.

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Donald Camden

5810 Kingstowne Center Dr. #120  
Alexandria, VA 22315-5711

M - F 8:30 am - 8 pm  
Sat. 9 am - 5 pm  
Sun. 12 pm - 4 pm

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## You Are Invited!



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Thursday, October 13, 2016  
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Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
Marriott Courtyard  
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For more information, contact your Rose Hill neighbor and Eric Stewart Group member Candy Watts at 703.850.1805.

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